

BATMAN[®]

HUNT THE DARK KNIGHT[™]

BY
FRANK MILLER
WITH
KLAUS JANSON
AND
LYNN VARLEY

BOOK THREE • \$2.95
\$4.50 IN CANADA



FMV

HUNT
THE
DARK
KNIGHT



BRUCE,
YOU
IDiot.



YOU'LL RUIN
EVERYTHING.



FOR ALL
OF US.



I ALWAYS
KNEW YOU
WOULD...



I'VE WAITED
LONG ENOUGH,
YOU SOFT GLOB
OF SHIT.

EMPTY THE
CASH REGISTER--
OR MY BULLETS WILL TEAR
THROUGH YOUR BRAIN,
BREAKING IT INTO MOIST,
GOOEY LUMPS...

THAT'S IF I
DON'T GIVE WITH
A SURPRISE FROM
UP THE SLEEVE,
HUH, BRUNO?

BRUNO GET
WASTY, DON.
YOU SEE.

CLERK
GONE BILLY,
ROB.

BRUNO
DON'T
SHIV.



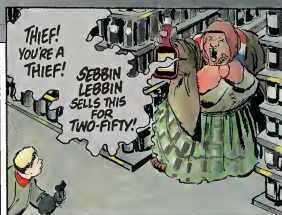
YOUR BOYS--USED TO BE
MUTANTS, HUH? GUESS SINCE
THEIR BRASS GOT HIS ASS
FLATTENED THEY'LL WORK
FOR ANYBODY.

GUESS
WITH YOUR
BOYFRIEND
IN THE LOONY
BIN YOU GOT
TO PAY FOR
YOUR OWN
BODYWORK.



NICE WORK,
TOO. CAN
BARELY
SEE THE
STRETCH
MARKS.

I'LL
STRIP
YOUR FLESH
WITH MY
TEETH...



THIEF!
YOU'RE A
THIEF!

SEBBIN
LEBBIN
SELLS THIS
FOR
TWO-FIFTY!

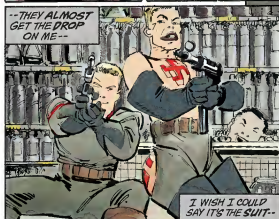


HE'S YOUNG--
HE'S QUICK--



HE ALMOST
PULLS THE
TRIGGER--

SLERK



--THEY ALMOST
GET THE DROP
ON ME--

I WISH I COULD
SAY IT'S THE SUIT--



--THAT SLOWS
ME DOWN--

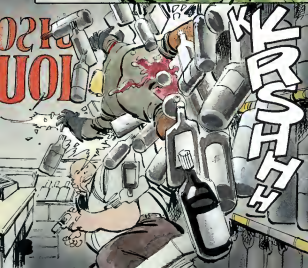
--THAT MAKES
ME SWEAT...



WHEFF



HEY,
BATS--
--BRUNO--
SHE'S GETTIN'
AWAY!!



KKRSHTT



NOW WE
SETTLE
UP.
PULL
THAT
TRIGGER--



--AND I'LL
BE BACK. FOR
YOU.

DISCOUNT LIQUOR



BRUNO IS COMING YOUR WAY, ROBIN.

GET HER INTO THE ALLEY. DO NOT LET HER SEE YOU.

BOYS, BOYS, BOYS... ONE AT A TIME NOW... NOW NOW ABOUT THAT SMARTLY DRESSED YOUNGSTER IN THE FRONT ROW THERE...

MR. PRESIDENT-- WE'RE ALL ANXIOUS TO HEAR YOUR PLANS FOR THE CORTO MATHESE CRISIS. BUT FIRST, ANOTHER QUESTION MUCH ON THE MINDS OF AMERICA. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE BATMAN CONTROVERSY?

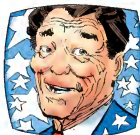


WELL, I DON'T THINK THAT'S MY BULL TO -- MY ROW TO HEE, BOYS... HEH... YOU SEE, THAT'S A RIGHT BIG STATE, ALL ITS OWN... AND IT'S GOT ITS OWN SOLID, CLEAR-HEADED GOVERNOR, YES, IT DOES...

SORRY, GUYS, I'M THE GOVERNOR. GOT A WHOLE STATE TO LOOK AFTER. I TRUST THE JUDGMENT OF THE MAYOR OF GOTHAM CITY IMPLICITLY.

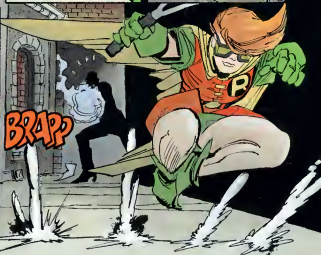
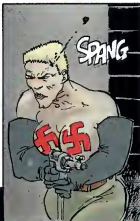
AS MAYOR, IT IS MY DUTY TO ADMINISTER-- NOT TO RENDER MORAL JUDGMENTS. DON'T ASK ME TO INTERFERE WITH THE DECISION-MAKING POWER OF OUR NEW POLICE COMMISSIONER.

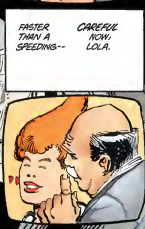
AND SO THE BATMAN BUCK IS PASSED-- TO ELLEN YINDEL, WHO REPLACES JAMES GORDON AS POLICE COMMISSIONER TONIGHT. WILL SHE FULFILL HER PROMISE TO ISSUE AN ARREST WARRANT FOR THE BATMAN?

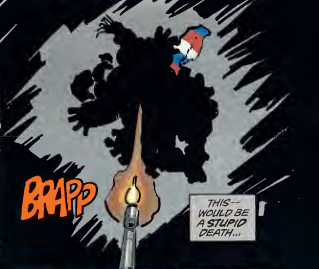
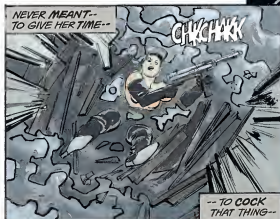


CHANNEL TWO WILL BROADCAST THE BANQUET LIVE, GORDON IS SCHEDULED TO INTRODUCE YINDEL-- A GRACEFUL GESTURE, CONSIDERING THEIR DIFFERENCES. WE MAY SEE SOME SPARKS FLY, TOM?

THAT WE MAY, LOLA. WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK, AS JULIE PARKS BRINGS US A STORY WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO CLASSIFY AS AN ATMOSPHERE ANOMALY-- OR A UFO SIGHTING.







ANOTHER BIZARRE
INCIDENT--THIS ONE IN THE
SOUTH STREET SUBWAY
STATION. ADVERTISING AGENT
BYRON BRASSBALLS TOLD
REPORTERS...

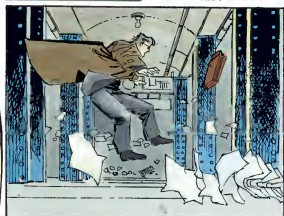
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING
WRONG. I WAS JUST TRYING
TO PROTECT MYSELF. THE
SUBWAYS ARE DANGEROUS.
YOU DON'T NEED ME TO TELL
YOU THAT. SO THERE I WAS,
ALONE IN THE STATION EXCEPT
FOR THIS 'BESSAR'--I WANT
THAT IN QUOTES--



--WHAT?..HOW WAS I TO KNOW
HE DIDN'T HAVE A GUN? THEY
NEVER SHOW YOU THAT UNTIL
THEY'RE READY TO KILL YOU--
WHAT?...OH, SURE, THE
CRUTCHES. A LOT OF THEM
USE CRUTCHES. YOU KNOW
WHAT I MEAN.



HEY--HE STARTED IT. AND IT
WAS HIS CRUTCHES THAT
TRIPPED HIM UP, BABE--
WHAT?...YOU BET HE YELLED.
WANTED ME TO JUMP DOWN AND
DIE WITH HIM. OF COURSE I RAN.
WHO WOULDN'T? THEN SOME-
THING HIT ME HARD--IN THE
CHEST--



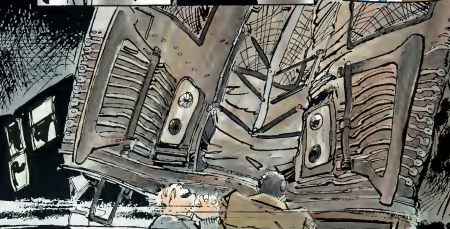


--HAVEN'T SEEN A DOCTOR YET,
BUT I'M SURE I SLIPPED A
RASC LANDING ON THE TRACKS...
NO, I COULDN'T SEE. NOT A
FRIGGING THING. THAT WIND
KICKED LIP TOO MUCH SOOT.
SPENT A SECOND LISTENING TO
THAT BEGGAR PRAY LIKE AN IDIOT...

...YES, I AM RELIGIOUS, BUT I'VE
GOT THE DECENCY TO KEEP IT IN
CHURCH. THEN I HEARD THE
BOSSMAN OF TWISTING METAL--
SHOUTS FROM INSIDE THE TRAIN,
PEOPLE BURNING. FINALLY THE
SOOT SETTLED...



...AND THERE IT WAS--
THE TRAIN, I MEAN--ITS
FRONT END CRUSHED INWARD,
LIKE IT RAN INTO SOMETHING...
WELL, SOMETHING...



SOMETHING MORE
POWERFUL THAN A
LOCOMOTIVE,
RIGHT, TOM?

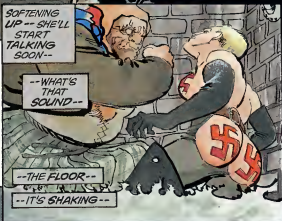
LOLA--THE
LAST THING WE
NEED IS
TROUBLE WITH
THE F.C.C....

SOFTENING
LIP -- SHE'LL
START
TALKING
SOON--

--WHAT'S
THAT
SOUND--

--THE FLOOR--

--IT'S SHAKING--



--NOT AN EARTHQUAKE.
DO NOT PANIC.
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S
LOCALIZED-- AND MOVING
ACROSS GOTHAM'S SOUTH
SIDE...



RRRRRRRRMMMMBBBBB



SOMETHING
HURLS ITSELF
INTO THE SKY.



SOMETHING
LEAPS A TALL
BUILDING WITH
A SINGLE
BOUND.

...SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES
STORMED OUT OF THE HALL,
REPEATING THIS LATE-
BREAKING STORY: U.S./SOVIET
TALKS ON THE CORDO
MALIENSE CRISIS HAVE
BROCKEN DOWN.

TURNING U.S. MILITARY
SUPPORT OF THE REGIME OF
GENERAL MONTALBAN AS
"FASCIST AGGRESSION," THE
SOVIETS PLEADED A "TOTAL
MILITARY COMMITMENT." THIS
HAS BEEN A NEWS SIX SPECIAL
REPORT.

...BODIES OF A PUSHER AND
JUNKIE FOUND HACKED TO
PIECES IN A WEST END
TENEMENT. MEMBERS OF THE
DISBANDED MUTANT GANGS ARE
CARRYING OUT THEIR THREAT TO
GOTHAM'S UNDERWORLD.

THE MUTANTS ARE DEAD. THE
MUTANTS ARE HISTORY. THIS
IS THE MARK OF THE FUTURE.
GOTHAM CITY BELONGS TO
THE BATMAN.



DO NOT EXPECT ANY
FURTHER STATEMENTS. THE
SONS OF THE BATMAN DO
NOT TALK. WE ACT. LET
GOTHAM'S CRIMINALS
BEWARE. THEY ARE ABOUT
TO ENTER HELL.



BATMAN'S CULPABILITY
FOR THIS ATROCITY IS OUR
SUBJECT TONIGHT. WITH
US IS THE WORLD'S LEADING
EXPERT ON THE SOCIOLOGICAL
IMPACT OF THE BATMAN--
DR. BARTHOLOMEW WOLPER.



BATMAN
IS A
MENACE
TO
SOCIETY.



NOW, I KNOW THAT'S SOMETHING
OF AN OUTDATED TERM. SURE
SOUNDS STRANGE, COMING
OUT OF MY MOUTH. NONETHELESS,
IT APPLIES. DESPITE MY ALERTING
THE CITY TO THE INEVITABLE
CONSEQUENCES--



--NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE
TO STOP THIS PSYCHOSOCIAL
INFECTON. BATMAN SHOULD
BE CONSIDERED PERSONALLY
RESPANSIBLE FOR EVERY
HUMAN BEING MURDERED
BY THIS GANG.



MY ORDERS
WERE SPECIFIC--

WATCH
IT--

YEAH,
BUT...



--STILL, YOU MADE YOURSELF *VISIBLE*
TO BRUNO. I WILL NOT TOLERATE
INSUBORDINATION--

--CAREFUL--

...BUT BACK
THERE-- WAS
THAT HIM?

...THE HALL IS SILENT,
AS THE MAN WHO HAS
BEEN POLICE COMMISSIONER
OF GOTHAM CITY FOR
TWENTY-SIX YEARS
STEPS TO THE PODIUM...



NICE
WATCH.

... JAMES GORDON
DRAWS A FOND
CHUCKLE FROM
THE AUDIENCE...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
IT IS MY PLEASURE TO
INTRODUCE YOU TO YOUR
NEW POLICE COMMISSIONER.
I DO NOT ENVY HER THE NEXT
FEW YEARS. THE JOB HAS
FEW REWARDS.

THE BEST YOU CAN HOPE FOR
IS THAT WHEN YOU'RE
FINISHED WITH IT, THINGS
AREN'T AS LOUSY AS THEY
WOULD'VE BEEN WITHOUT
YOU. ELLEN YINDEL IS
EMINENTLY QUALIFIED FOR
THIS JOB...



TO ATTEMPT TO QUOTE HER
OUTSTANDING RECORD IN THE
MINUTES I'M ALLOWED
WOULD BE A DISSERVICE TO
HER. RATHER, I OFFER MY
SYMPATHY, IN THE KNOWLEDGE
OF WHAT SHE FACES.



IF YOU
DISOBEY,
EVER
AGAIN--

--YOU'RE
FIRED.

SHE FACES A CITY OF THIEVES
AND MURDERERS AND HONEST
PEOPLE TOO FRIGHTENED TO
HOPE. SHE FACES LIFE-AND-
DEATH DECISIONS. EVERY
HOUR TO COME. SOME WILL
TORTURE HER.

WE GOING
SOMEWHERE
OR WHAT?

TO THE ONLY
SOLID LEAD I'VE
GOT LEFT, ROBIN.

A MAN
NAMED
ABNER.



SHE WILL FACE A MAN WHO IS THE LIVING SPIRIT OF... SOMETHING WE NEED. SHE MAY BE HIS ENEMY. SHE MAY LEARN FROM HIM. I WISH HER WELL. THANK YOU-- AND GOOD-BYE.

... THERE IS STRAINED APPAUSE FOR JAMES GORDON...

FIGURE WE'VE BEEN DOING THE SPIDER HERE FOR LESS THAN THREE YEARS...

PATIENCE, ROBIN. IT'LL KEEP YOU ALIVE. ABNER ISN'T HOME.



ACES. I GET SOME CLUES.



ROBIN!

NO!

... AND YES-- A STANDING OVATION FOR POLICE COMMISSIONER YINDEL!

THANK YOU... I AM HONORED TO SHARE THE STAGE WITH JAMES GORDON. HE SPOKE OF DECISIONS. NOW I MUST MAKE MY OWN.



EYUUM.



EYUUM YOURSELF, BITCH.



I SAID NO!

IT TALKS--

DESPITE GOTHAM'S PLAGUE OF CRIME, I BELIEVE OUR ONLY RECOURSE IS LAW ENFORCEMENT. I WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF A VIGILANTE. THEREFORE, AS YOUR POLICE COMMISSIONER--

--I ISSUE THIS ARREST ORDER FOR THE BATMAN ON CHARGES OF BREAKING AND ENTERING, ASSAULT AND BATTERY, CREATING A PUBLIC MENACE--





I'LL SEND
ROBIN HOME.

I'LL HELP THE
EMERGENCY TEAMS
AS BEST I CAN.

I'LL COUNT
THE DEAD,
ONE BY ONE.

I'LL ADD
THEM TO
THE LIST,
JOKER.

THE LIST OF
ALL THE
PEOPLE I'VE
MURDERED...

-- BY
LETTING
YOU
LIVE.

JUST
CAN'T
SLEEP.



SHOULD
SLEEP.

SHOULD BE
FRESH
TOMORROW.



TOMORROW
I GO FREE.



FISTFUL OF ENTERTAINMENT
TOMORROW NIGHT, WITH DR.
RUTH WEISENHEIMER, THE
WET HAMBURGER BUN
CONTEST, AND A MAN WHO'S
BROUGHT A LOT OF SMILES
TO THE WORLD, GO TO BED.



-- BUT I
JUST CAN'T
SLEEP.

...TWELVE KILLED IN A
MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION
THAT LEVELLED A BAY
RIDGE APARTMENT BUILDING
...THE RESCUE TEAM
SIGHTED BATMAN AT THE
SCENE...

...FOLLOWING HER ARREST
ORDER FOR THE BATMAN,
COMMISSIONER YINDEL
FILED A FORMAL PROTEST
WITH THE MEDIA COUNCIL
AGAINST THE JOKER'S
APPEARANCE ON THE DAVID
ENDOCHRINE SHOW...

THE COUNCIL DENIED HER
PROTEST... THE BODY OF
THREE-TIME LOSER
HECTOR MENDEZ WAS
FOUND IN AN EAST SIDE
ALLEY. HE HAD BEEN
LITERALLY SKINNED
ALIVE...

...THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES
GUILD HAS DECLARED A
GENERAL STRIKE, IN
RESPONSE TO TREATMENT
OF THEIR MEMBERS IN THE
RECENT LIBYAN INCIDENT...



...DESPITE MASSIVE SOVIET
ARMS BUILDUP IN THE
WATERS SURROUNDING
CORTO MALTESE, THE
PRESIDENT PROMISES THAT
AMERICA WILL NOT BE THE
FIRST TO DEPLOY NUCLEAR
WEAPONS...

GOOD
MORNING
GOTHAM!



THERE'S JUST
THE SUN AND THE
SKY AND HIM,
LIKE HE'S THE ONLY
REASON IT'S ALL HERE.

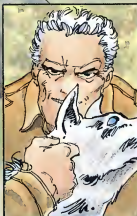
THEN HE RUINS
EVERYTHING BY
TALKING.

YOU'RE NOT A
YOUNG MAN
ANYMORE,
BRUCE...

MAYBE
IF YOU'D
LEARNED TO
SLOW
DOWN...
FIND YOUR
NICHE...

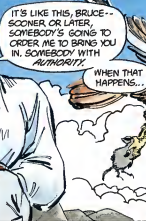
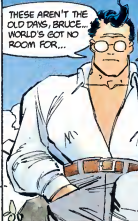
...BUT TIMES
HAVE CHANGED,
AND YOU--

WELL, IT'S
JUST NOT
HEALTHY.
YOU'LL BURN
YOURSELF
UP.



I KNOW, I
KNOW, YOU
LOOK BETTER
THAN YOU HAVE
IN YEARS.
BUT...

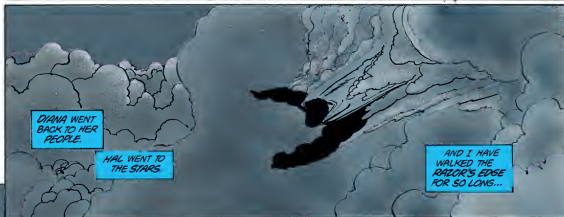
YOU'RE
GOING TO
MAKE ME
COME RIGHT
OUT AND SAY
IT, AREN'T YOU?





THE REST
OF US LEARNED
TO COPE.

THE REST OF US
RECOGNIZED THE
DANGER--OF
THE ENDLESS
ENVY OF THOSE
NOT BLESSED.



DIANA WENT
BACK TO HER
PEOPLE.

HAL WENT TO
THE STARS

AND I HAVE
WALKED THE
RAZOR'S EDGE
FOR SO LONG...



BUT YOU,
BRUCE--

--YOU, WITH
YOUR WILD
OBSESSION--



WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

--SEVEN POINT FIVE
ON THE RICHTER SCALE...
HAVE THOSE IDIOTS
FINALLY DONE IT?...

THIS IS STRICTLY AN
OBSERVATION MISSION FOR
YOU, ROBIN. YOU WILL STAY
IN THE COPTER.

YOU ARE NOT TO
TOUCH THE
CONTROLS.



IF ANYTHING
GOES WRONG,
JUST SAY
"BOOSTERS"
INTO THE MIKE.

IT'S VOICE
ACTIVATED
COMPUTERS. YOU
WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND

FIGURE I
WOULDN'T

SIT UP
STRAIGHT,
ROBIN.

YES,
SIR.

SENSORS READ EIGHT
POLICE CHOPPERS IN THE
VICINITY OF THE TV
STUDIO.



YINDEL'S SERIOUS ABOUT THAT
ARREST ORDER. BUT I THINK
SHE'S IN FOR A SURPRISE
WHEN SHE SIGS POLICE ON
ME. THEY'LL SEE US SOON...

...YES.
HOW'D YOU
KNOW
ABOUT...

HAVE WE GOT
A LUNGBUSTER
OF A SHOW
FOR YOU
TONIGHT...

JUST BE
YOURSELF..



THIS THING
PACK A
CLANK?

OLD NEWS,
BOSS.

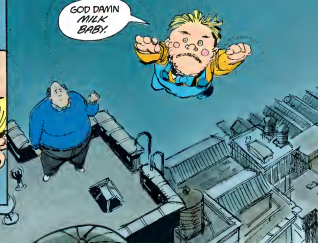
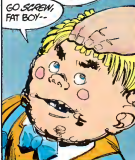


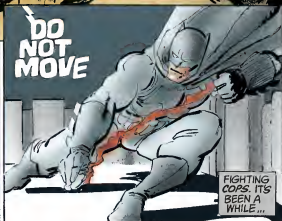
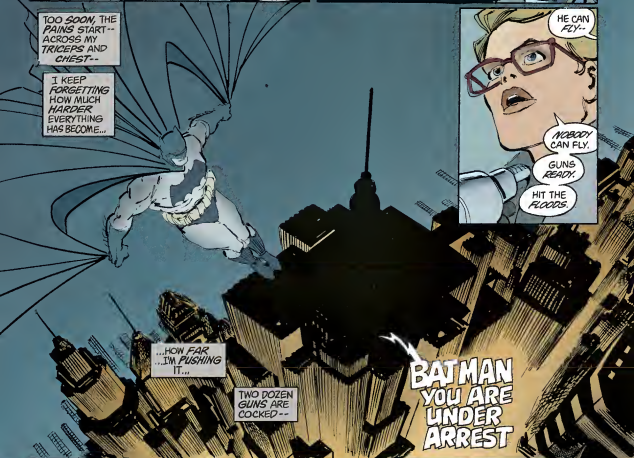
...PEOPLE ZHOUND
HAF ZEK UND ZEK
UND ZEK-- ALL ZE
TIME, DAVID...

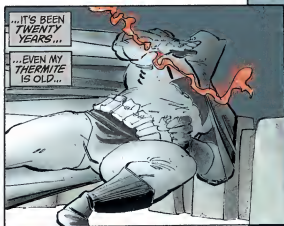
YOUR SISTER MARY
DID REAL GOOD FOR
UNCLE JOKER, BOBBIE.
YOU WILL TOO, WON'T
YOU?

GO SUREN,
FAT BOY--

GOD DAMN
MILK
BABY!







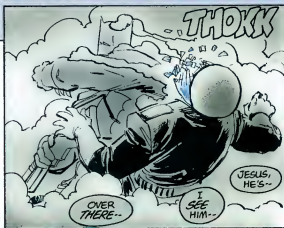
WHAT CAN I SAY
ABOUT OUR NEXT
GUEST THAT HASN'T
BEEN SAID BEFORE?
PAUL?

HE'S A KOOK, DAVE.
A MANIAC. A REAL
LUNATIC. NO, I
MEAN IT. HE'S A
NUT.



SO MANY FACES--SO
DIFFERENT
FROM ONE
ANOTHER...

...SO FEW
SMILES...



YOU'RE SAID TO HAVE ONLY KILLED ABOUT SIX HUNDRED PEOPLE, JOKER. NOW DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, BUT I THINK YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING OUT ON US.

THIS IS A SENSITIVE HUMAN BEING HERE, DAVE. I WON'T LET YOU HARBOR--

I DON'T KEEP COUNT.



HE...AH... HE'S JUST... AH... TRYING TO BREAK THE TENSION...

ANEM: DR. VOLPER--YOU HAF BLEMENED ZE BATMAN FOR ZESE KILLINGS, YES?

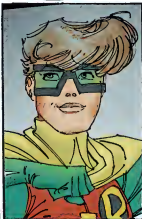
YES, YES, MY PATIENT IS A VICTIM OF BATMAN'S PSYCHOSIS.

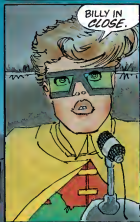
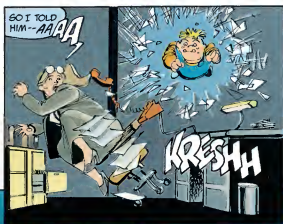
UND WHAT IZ ZE NATURE UF BATMAN'S PSYCHOSIS?

WHY, SEXUAL REPRESSION, OF COURSE.

SEXUAL REPRESSION --ZIS IS A TERRIBLE ZING...

YOU'RE RIGHT, WE MUST NOT RESTRAIN OURSELVES.





WHEEZING
NOW--CHEST
LIKE A BLAST
FURNACE--

--SO MANY
OF THEM...



ZEX UND
ZEX...

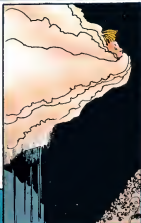
...UND ZEX
UND ZEX...

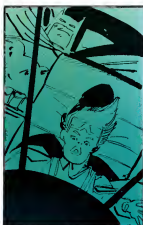


...SO MANY...
AND THEY'RE
ALL...

...SO YOUNG...









WE MUST NOT
REMIND
THEM THAT
GIANTS
WALK THE
EARTH.

...URGING THE PUBLIC NOT TO WORRY, THE PRESIDENT HAS PLACED STRATEGIC AIR COMMANDS ON RED ALERT. "WE WON'T MAKE THE FIRST MOVE," SAID THE PRESIDENT. "BUT WE'RE READY TO MAKE THE LAST."

THE POPE TODAY DECLARED THAT THE CHURCH'S STAND ON CONTRACEPTION WILL NOT CHANGE, DESPITE YESTERDAY'S FIREBOMBING OF ST. PETER'S SQUARE... AND, IN LOCAL NEWS...

MY HEAD GOES LIGHT AND THE SMOKE COATS THE INSIDE OF MY MOUTH AND LEAVES A PATCH OF RED-HOT GRAVEL AT THE BASE OF MY THROAT.

I STOPPED DOING THIS TO MYSELF FIVE YEARS AGO...



COMMISSIONER -- WHITTAKER'S GONE ALL SICK.

HE'S JUST A ROOKIE...

SEND HIM HOME, MERKEL. TELL HIM IT'S ALL RIGHT.

...TWO HUNDRED AND SIX WERE SLAIN DURING THE JOKER'S ESCAPE FROM THE DAVID ENDORCHINE SHOW (INCLUDING HOST ENDOCHRINE AND DR. BARTHOLOMEW HOLPER.

THE JOKER REPORTEDLY USED HIS DEADLY SMILE GAS ON THE CROWD. COMMISSIONER YINDEL REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THIS, OR ON THE ESCAPE OF THE BATMAN, WHICH LEFT TWELVE POLICE OFFICERS HOSPITALIZED...



KYLE
ESCORT
SERVICE, INC.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME BACK, BRUCE.

AMERICAN EXPRESS
CARDS WELCOME



THEY'VE CHANGED. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THEY'VE CHANGED.

THEY'LL KILL YOU...



SELINA--

OH, JESUS.



I NEED YOUR HELP. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.



YOU GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

THE YEARS HAVE NOT BEEN KIND, SELINA...



MMFF



AH, SELINA-- YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL. I CHANGED MY LIFESTYLE. YOU ARE GRATEFUL?...

YES... GRATEFUL...



NOW... YOUR GIRL ELSIE IS ESCORTING A CONGRESSMAN TONIGHT. MEETING HIM AT HIS HOTEL.

WHY DON'T YOU CALL ELSIE IN HERE?

...THE SONS OF THE BATMAN HAVE STRUCK AGAIN. IN FRONT OF A DOZEN WITNESSES, THEY ACCOSTED A SHOPLIFTER AND... CHOPPED HIS HANDS OFF...

THE SHOPLIFTER IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CARRYING SEVERAL MAGAZINES AND A CANDY BAR... AS YET, POLICE REPORT NO EVIDENCE TO DIRECTLY LINK THE BATMAN TO THESE CRIMES...



IT'S A .45 CALIBER BULLET.

HOLLOW POINT.



IT EXPLODES IN HIS CHEST.

I FEEL THE SHOCK THROUGH HIS FINGERS.



FOR THE HUNDRED THOUSANDTH TIME...

...MY FATHER DIES...



...WHERE'D YOU LEARN ABOUT COMPUTERS, ROBIN?

HAD TO LEARN SOMETHING IN SCHOOL...



UHM...THIS I DIDN'T SAY FOR, ELSIE--

SHH...



NO--I MEAN IT-- I'M A HAPPILY MARRIED MAN...



THERE'S SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO DO FOR ME, CONGRESSMAN. LISTEN CLOSELY...

YES... CLOSELY.



THIS UNIT HAS ITS OWN CONTROLS. HOW'S IT DETACH?

I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE YET, BUT--

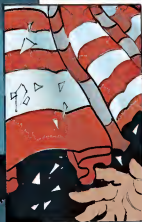
QUIET-- I'M PICKING SOMETHING UP--

--A TELEVISION TRANSMISSION--

--HE'S STILL UP THERE, LOLA-- DRESSED IN NOTHING BUT AN AMERICAN FLAG. CONGRESSMAN NODS, PLEADING FOR A FULL NUCLEAR STRIKE ON CORTO MALTESE--



WE'RE
BASTARDS
LET'S
ACT LIKE...
NO..



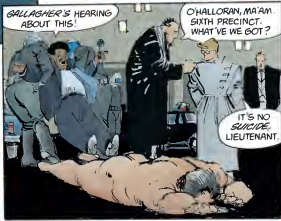
...HE'S DOWN, LOLA. HE'S
STREET PIZZA.
COMMISSIONER YINDEL IS
ON THE SCENE-- LET'S
SEE IF WE CAN GET HER
TO SAY A FEW WORDS...

COMMISSIONER GET
THIS
CLOWN
OUT OF
HERE

GALLAGHER'S HEARING
ABOUT THIS!

O'HALLORAN, MA'AM.
SIXTH PRECINCT.
WHAT'VE WE GOT?

IT'S NO
SUICIDE,
LIEUTENANT.



THE GIRL WITH HIM IS FROM
KYLE ESCORT. SHE'S
BEEN DRUGGED SHUT
THE JOINT DOWN--
AND PICK UP
SELINA
KYLE.



YES, MA'AM.
THANK YOU,
MA'AM.
COMMISSIONER...



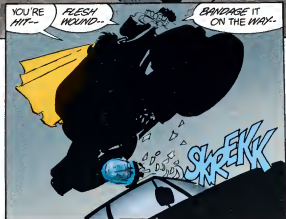
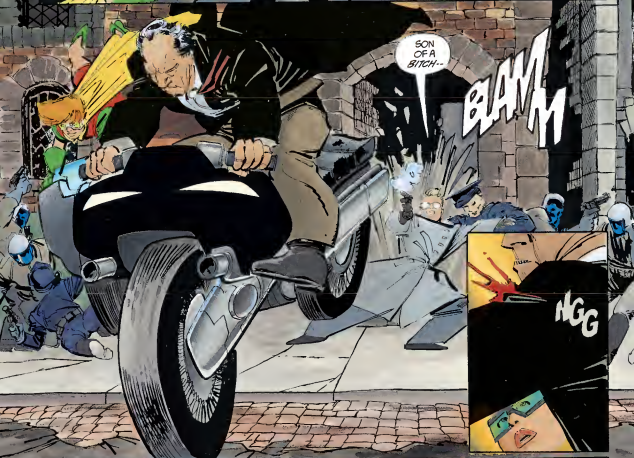
--O'HALLORAN, MA'AM.
SIXTH PRECINCT.
ANYTHING I CAN--
--SOMETHING
WARRMS,
COMMISSIONER?



**STOP
THAT
MAN!**

WHAT
THE...



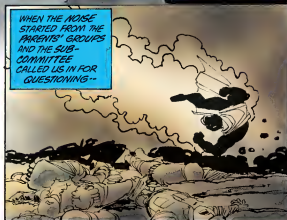


YOU WERE THE ONE
THEY USED AGAINST
US, BRUCE.

THE ONE
WHO PLAYED
IT ROUGH.

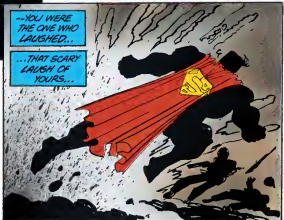


WHEN THE NOISE
STARTED FROM THE
PARENTS' GROUPS
AND THE SUB-
COMMITTEE
CALLED US IN FOR
QUESTIONING--



--YOU WERE
THE ONE WHO
LAUGHED...

...THAT SCARY
LAUGH OF
YOURS...



"SURE WE'RE CRIMINALS,"
YOU SAID. "WE'VE ALWAYS
BEEN CRIMINALS."



"WE HAVE TO
BE CRIMINALS."



I'M FINE,
ROBIN.

JUST PICK
THAT LOCK
LIKE I TAUGHT
YOU.



JUST CAME
OVER THE
HORN--
--NOBODY AT
KYLE ESCORT
COMMISSIONER.

KYLE'S
APARTMENT,
MERKEL--



SHE GOT HERE
FASTER THAN I
PLANNED...

...REMINDS
ME OF JIM
-- IN THE
OLD DAYS...

KBLAMM

WATCH
IT--
HE'S--

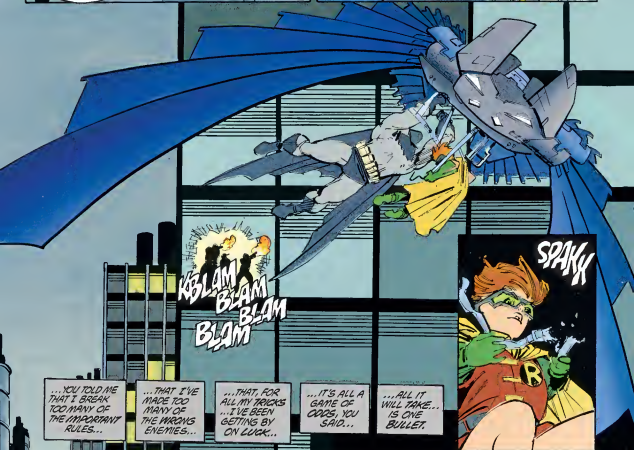
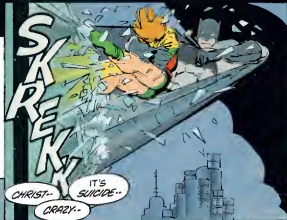
CHRIST--
I CAN'T--

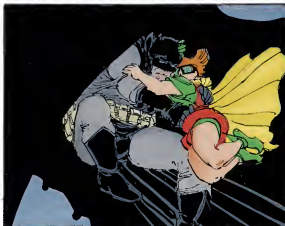
DAMN
HE'S--

WHEE

--CAN'T
GET A
CLEAR
SHOT--

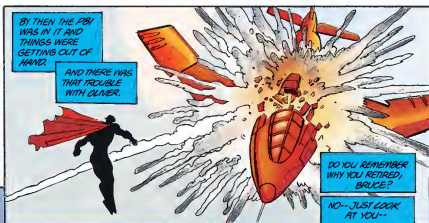
POOM







WE ALMOST
THREW A
PARTY
WHEN YOU
RETIRED.



BY THEN THE FBI
WAS IN IT AND
THINGS WERE
GETTING OUT OF
HAND.

AND THERE WAS
THAT TROUBLE
WITH OLIVER.

DO YOU REMEMBER
WHY YOU RETIRED,
BRUCE?

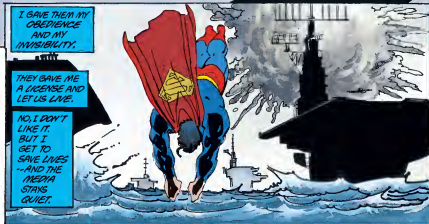
NO--JUST LOOK
AT YOU--

--YOU'D DO IT
AGAIN-- AND
LIKE A MURDERER,
YOU'D COVER IT
UP AGAIN.

NOTHING
MATTERS TO
YOU--EXCEPT
YOUR HOLY
WAR.



THEY WERE CONSIDERING
THEIR OPTIONS AND
YOU WERE PROBABLY
STILL LAUGHING WHEN
WE CAME TO TERMS.



I GAVE THEM MY
OBEDIENCE AND MY
INVISIBILITY.

THEY GAVE ME
A LICENSE AND
LET US LIVE.

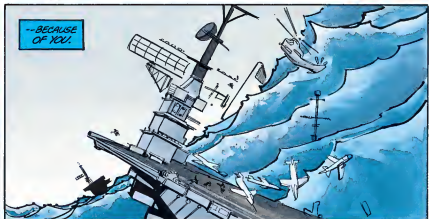
NO, I DON'T
LIKE IT.
BUT I
GET TO
SAVE LIVES
--AND THE
MEDIA
STAYS
QUIET.



BUT NOW
THE STORM
IS GROWING
AGAIN--



--THEY'LL
HUNT US
DOWN
AGAIN--



--BECAUSE
OF YOU.

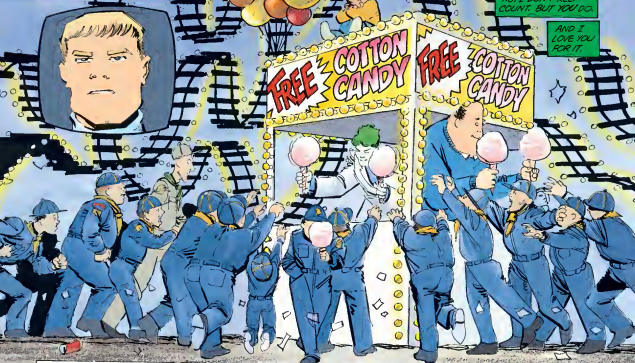
... COMMUNICATIONS BLACKOUT CONTINUES AT CORRIDO MARTESE, AS DO THE BIZARRE AERIAL DISTURBANCES. HUNDRED-MILE-AN-HOUR WINDS LASH THE PORT OF SAN CONDESIDON, SIXTY MILES SOUTH OF CORTO...

THEY COULD PUT ME IN A HELICOPTER AND FLY ME UP INTO THE AIR AND LINE THE BODIES HEAD TO TOE ON THE GROUND IN DELIGHTFUL GEOMETRIC PATTERNS LIKE AN ENDLESS JUNE TAYLOR DANCERS ROUTINE --

-- AND IT WOULD NEVER BE ENOUGH.

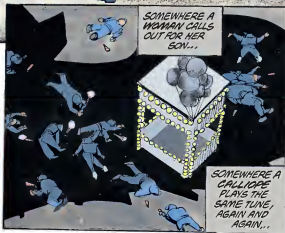
NO, I DON'T KEEP COUNT. BUT YOU DO.

AND I LOVE YOU FOR IT.



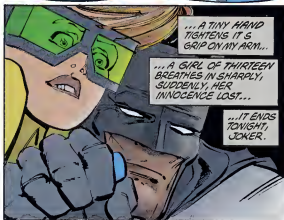
...PENTAGON CHIEF GENERAL LUCAS LOCKHEED CONFIRMS THAT STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND STANDS AT DEFCON THREE-- A HEARTBEAT FROM DEPLOYMENT. "WE'RE PRIMED," SAYS LOCKHEED...

...APPREHENDED WHILE TRYING TO POISON THE GOTHAM RESERVOIR WERE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE MUTANT GANG. THEIR SKIN WAS PAINTED CHALK WHITE, THEIR HAIR DYED GREEN...



SOMEWHERE A WOMAN CALLS OUT FOR HER SON...

SOMEWHERE A CALLIOPE PLAYS THE SAME TUNE, AGAIN AND AGAIN...



... A TINY HAND TIGHTENS IT'S GRIP ON MY ARM...

... A GIRL OF THIRTEEN BREATHES IN SHARPLY, SUDDENLY, HER INNOCENCE LOST...

...IT ENDS TONIGHT, JOKER.

LANA, YOU ASTONISH ME. FIFTEEN POLICEMEN HOSPITALIZED-- HUNDREDS DEAD-- AND STILL YOU CLING TO THIS HERO WORSHIP? THOUGH NOW ANYONE CAN THINK OF A DEFECTO MURDERER AS A HERO...

BATMAN HASN'T KILLED ANYBODY, MORRIS.



PERHAPS HE HASN'T--
TECHNICALLY, THAT'S WHY
I SAID DE FACTO, LANA
DEAR. STILL, IT'S HARDLY
A COINCIDENCE THAT THE
JOKER CAME OUT OF A
TEN-YEAR CATAPULT--
NOW, OF ALL TIMES...

THANK
THE NICE
MAN,
DONALD.

I WANT
THE KIND
THAT
TALKS.

UH, BOSS--
THERE'S A BAR
HEADING OUR
WAY.

IT'S BIG.
IT'S...

PISS
OFF.



...IT'S HIM. I'LL MAKE
SURE THE
BOMB GOES
OFF.

WHAT--

WHAT
ARE
THEY--

HEY!

UP THERE--
IT'S--

BOBBIE--

HEY--

--IT'S
BATMAN--

RIGHT,
RIGHT...

BOMB? I HEARD--
DID HE SAY...

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

BOSS--
IT'S ONE OF
THOSE--

TK TK

TK

IT'S LOADED,
ROBIN--

--LET IT
GET CLOSE--

--WAIT
FOR MY
ORDER--

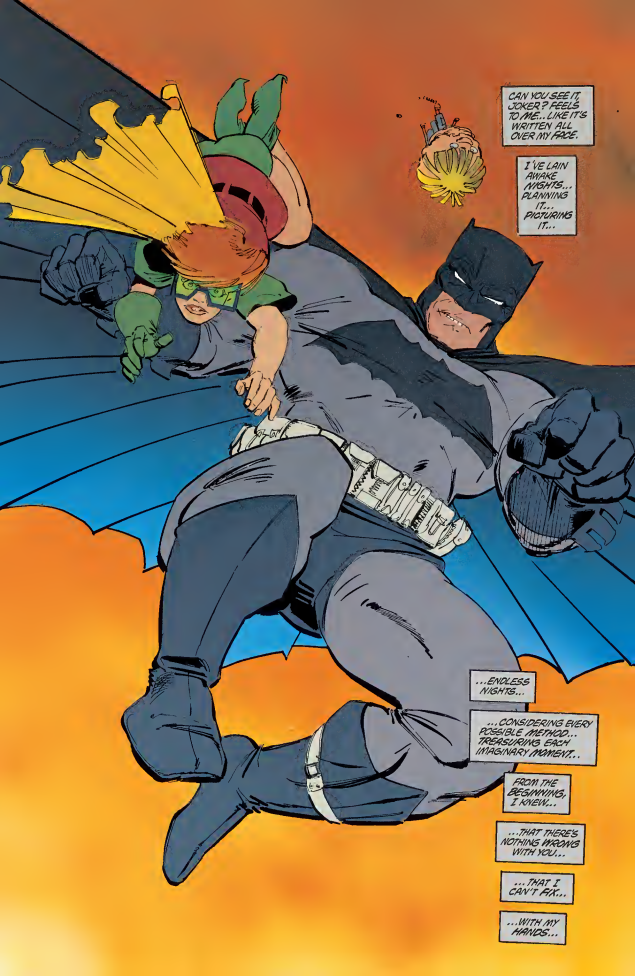
OH, MY GOD
IT'S--

OH,
MY--

OH, MY
GOD--

PO
MM
M





CAN YOU SEE IT,
JOKER? FEELS
TO ME... LIKE IT'S
WRITTEN ALL
OVER MY FACE.

I'VE LAIN
AWAKE
NIGHTS...
PLANNING
IT...
PICTURING
IT...

...ENDLESS
NIGHTS...

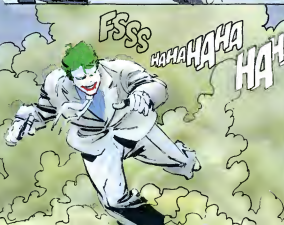
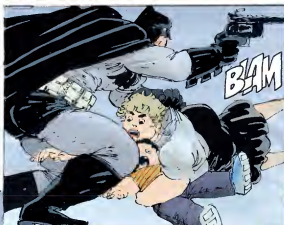
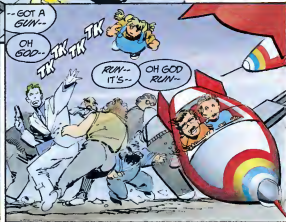
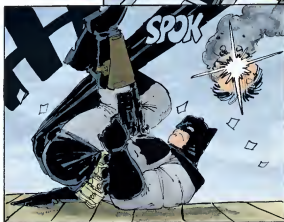
...CONSIDERING EVERY
POSSIBLE METHOD...
TREASURING EACH
IMAGINARY MOMENT...

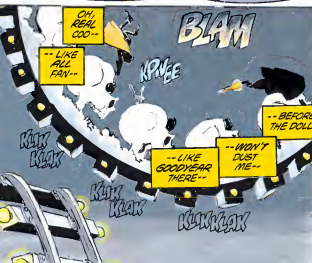
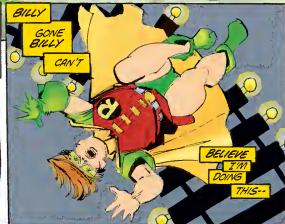
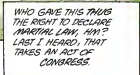
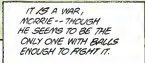
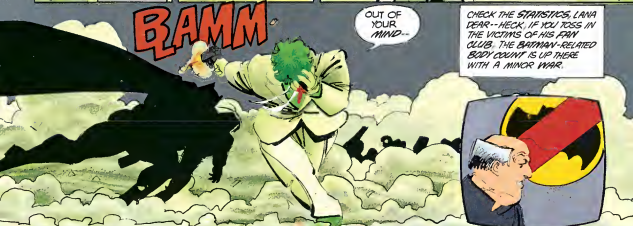
FROM THE
BEGINNING,
I KNEW...

...THAT THERE'S
NOTHING WRONG
WITH YOU...

...THAT I
CAN'T FIX...

...WITH MY
HANDS...







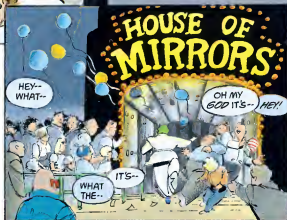
LIKE FOR THIS --

-- I MISSED THE GYM FINALS --

KIRK KIRK KIRK KIRK

-- CHILD ENDANGERMENT IS THE LATEST CHARGE AGAINST THE BATMAN, REPORTS POLICE MEDIA RELATIONS DIRECTOR LOUIS GALLAGHER. BATMAN HAS BEEN SIGHTED USING A YOUNG BOY...

... AS A SHIELD AGAINST POLICE GUNFIRE. COMING UP -- COMMISSIONER YINDEL SAVES THE GOVERNOR FROM LITERALLY STRANGLING HIMSELF WITH RED TAPE...



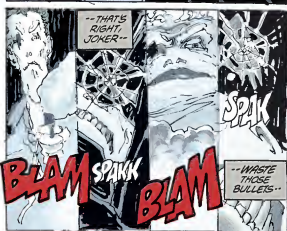
TOO SLOW --

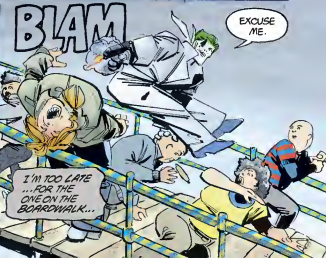
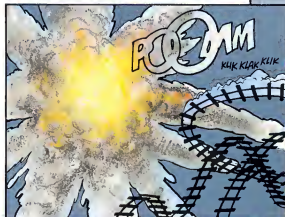
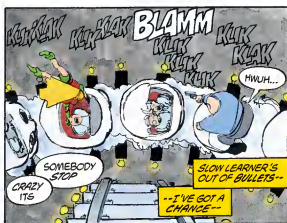
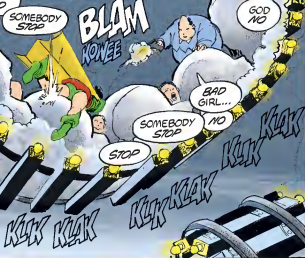
HE HEARS THE GLASS --

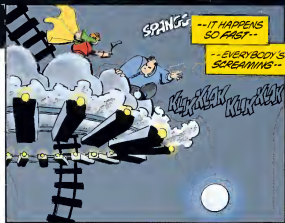
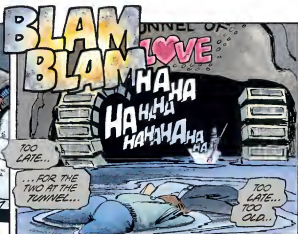
HE GETS --

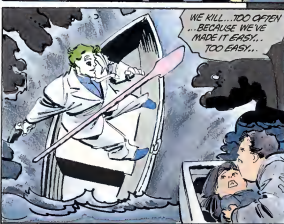
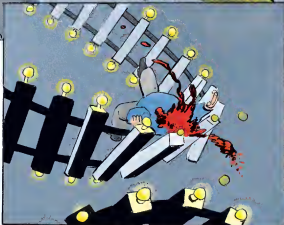
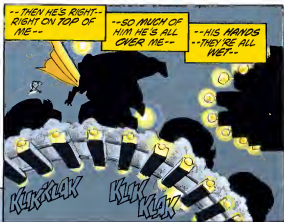
-- A GOOD ONE IN --

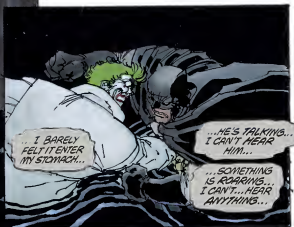
BLAM











--SHEER PANDEMONIUM HERE
AT THE COUNTY FAIR, LOLA!
THE JOKER HAS BEEN
SIGHTED--SIXTEEN CUB
SCOUTS HAVE BEEN FOUND
DEAD--DOZENS HAVE BEEN
WOUNDED BY
EXPLOSIONS--



...AND BATMAN HAS BEEN
SEEN--HE AND THE
JOKER EXCHANGED
GUNFIRE IN A CROWD--
HEY--WHAT--LOLA--
THEY'RE EVACUATING
THE COUNTY FAIR--



I'M REALLY, VERY DISAPPOINTED
WITH YOU, MY SWEET... THE
MOMENT WAS... PERFECT...
...AND YOU... DIDN'T
HAVE THE NERVE...



YES...COMING
CLOSE...YOU
WON'T GET
FAR...

...THEY'LL
KILL YOU
FOR THIS...

...THAT YOU
DIDN'T HAVE
THE NERVE..

WITH A
DEVIL'S
STRENGTH...
...HE
TWISTS...

НЕНН



...WHAT'S
LEFT OF
HIS SPINE...
GOES...

НА НА

...на

44

11A

13 **U/A**



... WHATEVER'S IN
HIM RUSTLES AS
IT LEAVES.

...THE SIRENS ECHO
THROUGH THE TUNNEL...
TIRES SCREECH...
...THE WORLD
...IS GROWING
DARK...

...AND
COLD...

NEXT:

DARK
KNIGHT
FALLS

FRANK MILLER

Story & Pencils

KLAUS JANSON

FRANK MILLER

Inks

LYNN VARLEY

Colors & Visual Effects

JOHN COSTANZA

Letters

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BATMAN:
THE DARK KNIGHT
STRIKES AGAIN



BATMAN: YEAR ONE



with
DAVID MAZZUCHELLI

ALL STAR BATMAN & ROBIN,
THE BOY WONDER VOL. I



with
JIM LEE

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